

TESTIMONY TO THE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE  
IN SUPPORT OF HB 5460 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MODEL PLAN FOR  
EMERGING BIOSCIENCE AND PHARMACEUTICAL BUSINESSES IN  
SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT

March 12, 2013

Senator LeBeau, Representative Perone, and members of the Commerce Committee, I am David Fryburg of 14 Alexander Drive, East Lyme CT, and I am here to testify in support of HB 5460 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MODEL PLAN FOR EMERGING BIOSCIENCE AND PHARMACEUTICAL BUSINESSES IN SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT.

I am a physician and a scientist and the former head of translational medicine for Cardiovascular, Metabolic and Endocrine Diseases for Pfizer. Since leaving Pfizer in 2009, I have been working as a consultant to biotechnology, non-profit/governmental organizations while still residing in Southeastern CT. As part of my current work, I am the Chief Medical Officer of a biotechnology company in Cambridge MA as well as the Team Leader for two project teams for the Foundation for the NIH Biomarkers Consortium. The FNIH Biomarkers Consortium is a consortium of pharmaceutical companies, governmental organizations (FDA and NIH), as well as academicians, and non-profits. The FNIH Biomarkers Consortium is a public-private consortium that focuses on precompetitive identification and validation of biomarkers, i.e., measures used to diagnose and track the progress of disease. Based on these experiences, I believe that I understand the needs and dynamics of these organizations and have a balanced perspective of how bringing seemingly disparate organizations (and professionals) together can create unique and highly valuable work products.

Southeastern CT is fortunate to have a large number of experienced, talented and creative biomedical professionals. Many (most) of whom originally came to the area because of Pfizer. Many of these professionals have remained in the area because of the ties that they have developed for family, friends, and the quality of life in Southeastern CT. Many have found work, but are commuting long distances or are living elsewhere while their families remain here.

The fact that there is a wealth of biomedical research talent in the area is seen by me as an enormous opportunity. In the years that I have worked as a consultant, I have witnessed firsthand how the creative integration of unique talents can be combined to generate work that would not occur in more linearly (traditionally) organized companies or institutions. Yet to make an endeavor such as this to succeed, it needs the appropriate seeds

planted and soil watered to enable germination and root development. Given a competitive economy and restricted resources, that creative facilitation might look like integrating ideas from Connecticut's academic institutions with an arm that raises venture funds and gathers regional talent to refine and execute promising ideas as one of several possible ideas. Without that requisite catalyst, however, none of this will spontaneously occur. It is like having the parts to a car, but no idea how to assemble it. The whole is much greater than the sum of the parts.

It is likely obvious that there are a lot of motivated scientists in Southeastern CT. The qualities that made them high caliber researchers when they were at Pfizer (and perhaps elsewhere) will most certainly be amplified by the opportunities that the State government can create. This initiative can create professional opportunities with real potential to serve the area, the State of CT, and society in general. There is much goodness in these prospects if undertaken with creativity and the right intention. I would urge you to pass the bill and give consideration to its further development into a productive plan.